



Made-in-Canada climate policy recommendations

Priorities to strengthen economic and health outcomes

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Introduction

The Atmospheric Fund (TAF) is an urban climate agency that invests in low-carbon solutions for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area. Our federal policy recommendations recognize the critical role of Canada's cities and communities in achieving mutual climate and health objectives, low-carbon economic development, and job creation.

TAF embraces “multi-solving” strategies. Our recommendations simultaneously address the housing crisis, climate and air pollution, and rising energy demand and costs. We prioritize economic opportunities for made-in-Canada companies providing low-carbon goods and services, like the auto sector and construction trades.

Our focus is tied directly to the sources of urban greenhouse gas emissions. 45% Canada's emissions come from buildings and transportation, and the decarbonization of these two sectors is dependent on non-emitting electricity. That's why our short-list of recommendations focus on these three priorities:



Buildings

Strategies to decarbonize the building sector while addressing the housing crisis [PAGE 2](#)



Transportation

Recommendations to accelerate the adoption of low-carbon mobility and infrastructure [PAGE 5](#)



Electricity grid

Steps to a clean grid via renewable energy generation, energy storage, and grid modernization [PAGE 7](#)

Thank you for considering TAF's recommendations.

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Housing policies that cut energy bills and create jobs



Creating energy efficient homes reduces monthly expenses, decreases pollution, and improves health for people in Canada.

Canada has an aging building supply, and most existing buildings will need to be retrofitted, while new homes must be as healthy and efficient as possible.

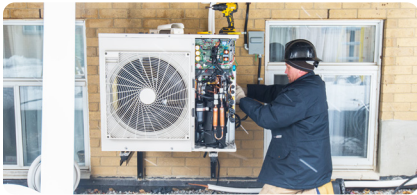
Scaling low-carbon retrofits and new green development presents a significant opportunity to stimulate a thriving construction economy and good jobs across the country.

The federal government should:



Fast-track energy efficient, resilient new homes and existing home retrofits

Use equipment standards to phase out the sale of natural gas burning heating equipment by 2035 and strengthen the national model building code by including low-carbon requirements in all tiers.



Implement a program to support and encourage efficient fuel switching

This would include funding high efficiency electric appliances such as heat pumps.



Provide educational programs and support for construction workers and tradespeople

There is growing demand for skills and labour in the retrofit and new green construction industry. A focus on workforce development (training programs or certifications) is a strategic opportunity across Canada.

Actions demonstrated by real-world experiences

The Well

PROJECTS

The Well is a 3 million square foot mixed-use new development which is entirely heated and cooled through a thermal storage system that stores energy at night during off-peak times, reducing both costs and energy strain on the grid.

Toronto Community Housing

PROJECTS

Toronto Community Housing (TCHC) heat pump retrofit at Field and Tree Sparrowway is expected to produce a 50% reduction in energy and carbon emissions and save more than \$5 million in utility costs for TCHC over 20 years.

These upgrades are already creating healthier, more comfortable indoor living environments for families, and will safeguard residents from Toronto's increasingly extreme indoor heat in summer.

BC Energy Step Code

POLICIES

BC Energy Step Code requires residential construction to be 20% more energy efficient than the 2018 BC building code. It also includes the Zero Carbon Step Code, which is an opt-in building carbon pollution standard for operational carbon.

Green Development Standards

POLICIES

Green Development Standards require smart, sustainable development, usually at an incremental cost, that results in residents saving on their monthly utility bills, a boost in local jobs, and healthier homes with better air quality.

Reducing air pollution through electric transportation



Electric vehicle (EV) adoption is mission-critical to achieving Canada's 2030 and 2050 climate targets and will have significant health benefits akin to the phaseout of coal power.

In addition to helping people in Canada live healthier lives and reducing respiratory illnesses, electrifying transportation reduces the lifetime cost of ownership of a car by saving consumers money on gas and maintenance.

Making EVs affordable and ensuring charging accessibility and reliability for people everywhere in Canada is essential to the success of this transition.

The federal government should:



Ensure EVs are available to purchase.

Uphold critical low-carbon transportation regulations, including the EV Availability Standard, and develop robust standards to assist in decarbonizing Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicles, such as aligning with California's air quality standards.



Strengthen the EV charging network across Canada.

Provide funding and incentives for strategic, public EV charging infrastructure in communities across Canada. Ensure accessible payment options and tie funding to a 97% functional uptime requirement for federally funded EV chargers. This mirrors similar funding requirements from the United States federal government.



Expand access to EV charging in residential buildings and homes.

Fund programs to assist in retrofitting existing multi-family urban residential buildings to support EV charging infrastructure and update building codes to require EV ready charging infrastructure for new developments.

With effective implementation, EVs make life healthier and more affordable

Analysis by TAF indicates the EV Availability Standard for light-duty vehicles will result in roughly \$90 billion in health benefits for Canadians - averting deaths, hospital visits, respiratory illnesses, and other health impacts.

A similar standard for medium-to-heavy duty vehicles will generate wide scale benefits and savings for stretched healthcare budgets if adopted at a similar rate.

Numerous analyses, including [recent data from the United States](#), shows that in almost every scenario, EVs will save consumers money on operating costs when compared to ICE vehicles.

In fact, according to the Parliamentary Budget Officer, light-duty EVs already have a lower total cost of ownership than ICE's.

A 21st century power grid

The cheapest kilowatt of power is the one that you don't use



Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) using 21st century technologies can meet a substantial portion of Canada's growing electricity capacity needs. DERs are small-scale electricity generation or storage technologies located close to where energy is consumed (such as rooftop solar, batteries, etc).

Ensuring that modern technology is standard in all homes across Canada can help to avoid, defer or reduce costly investments in transmission, distribution, and utility-scale generation.

DERs have the capacity to provide significant cost savings and energy reductions for grid networks and households. This will ensure that residents struggling the most with energy poverty experience the affordability benefits of clean electricity.

The federal government should:



Set an ambitious target for net-zero electricity generation in Canada and end the use of fossil fuels for electricity generation.

Use a combination of funding and regulations to phase out the use of fossil fuel electricity in Canada and the generation of electricity where it is needed. This will help to ensure Canada's clean energy advantage to attract companies, investment, and jobs.



Create a fund to support the adoption of energy efficiency programs and DERs across Canada.

In partnership with provinces and territories, provide combined funding and financing to boost deployment of DERs including solar PV, storage, and grid-connected equipment like water heaters and EV charging, for low-to-medium income customers and small business.

Scaling distributed energy resources for generation and conservation is proving successful.

Ontario's Peak Perks is a great example: [This program](#) has over 100,000 participating homes and achieves demand reductions of up to 90 megawatts during peak events using smart thermostats.

However, such programs can only realize demand reductions in homes that have the technology to participate.

The 100,000 participating homes are only 17% of currently eligible homes, and less than 5% of the total number of homes that could be eligible if all single-family dwellings had a smart thermostat.

Demand-side management is a critical enabler for electrification and affordability; ensuring that residents pair electrification with smart technology is a win-win for residents and for the grid.



TAF is a regional climate agency that invests in low-carbon solutions for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area and helps scale them up for broad implementation.

We are experienced leaders and collaborate with stakeholders in the private, public, and non-profit sectors who have ideas and opportunities for reducing carbon emissions.

Supported by endowment funds, we advance the most promising concepts by investing, providing grants, influencing policies, and running programs.

We're particularly interested in ideas that offer benefits beyond carbon reduction such as improving people's health, creating local green jobs, boosting urban resiliency, and contributing to a fair society

The Atmospheric Fund

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TAF acknowledges that the land on which we work is part of the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. The area also encompasses traditional territories of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, Erie, Neutral, Anishinaabe, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations.